

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROMANIA MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT

1. SCINTEIA AND ROMANIA LIBERA CARRY IDENTICAL SIX COLUMN INCH STORIES IN THEIR JULY 31 EDITIONS REPORTING PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT OF "SATISFACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECISION OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO APPROVE THE U.S.- ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL ACCORD, WHICH CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE GRANTING OF MFN STATUS." NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

2. LUMEA, AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WEEKLY IN ITS JULY 31 EDITION GIVES 40 COLUMN INCH TO U.S.- ROMANIAN RELATIONS. IN 25 COLUMN INCH ARTICLE SIGNED BY VASILE CRISU DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS SINCE 1969 IS TREATED IN FAVORABLE TERMS. CRISU NOTES THAT THE UP-COMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD WILL "RE-EMPHASIZE" DISTINCTIVE FEATURE" OF OUR RELATIONS. HE ALSO UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 1973 JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, WHICH EXPRESSES IDEAS ROMANIA SEEKS TO PROMOTE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. A 15 COLUMN INCH ARTICLE TREATS U.S. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF MFN STATUS FOR ROMANIA. STORY TERMS CONGRESSIONAL DECISION "POLITICAL REALISM" WHICH "OPENS NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE INTENSIFYING OF ECONOMIC

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CONNECTIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MFN PUTS ECONOMIC

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "ON A NORMAL BASIS" AND
"WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO THE EXTENSION AND DEEPENING OF
THESE RELATIONS IN THE RECIPROCAL ADVANTAGE OF THE AMERICAN
AND ROMANIAN PEOPLES." THE STORY CONCLUDES WITH A LENGTHY
DESCRIPTION OF EXACTLY WHAT MFN STATUS MEANS TO A COUNTRY.
LUMEA ADDS HALF-PAGE FACTUAL BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE OF
PRESIDENT FORD.BARNES

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